

BS
concl.
and a specific gravity of less than 1.4. The intermediate layer is formed of an ionomeric resin and has a thickness of at least 1 mm (0.03937 inches), a specific gravity of less than 1.2, and a hardness of at least 85 on JIS C (Shore C) scale. The specific gravity of the intermediate layer is less than the specific gravity of the center core. The cover layer has a thickness of 1 to 3 mm and is softer than the intermediate layer.--

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, under the heading "Field of the Invention", delete the entire first paragraph and replace it with:

BT
-- This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/631,613 filed on April 10, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. ^{5,803,831} ~~5,863,831~~, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/591,046 filed on January 25, 1996, now abandoned, and U.S. Application Serial No. 08/542,793 filed on October 13, 1995, now abandoned, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application 08/070,510 filed June 1, 1993, now abandoned, and ~~U.S. Application No. 08/542,793~~ filed October 13, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation of 08/070,510, now abandoned. R2

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed April 14, 1999, the Examiner objected to the drawings, a description of related applications in the specification, and the abstract. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. And, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Each of these matters are addressed below.

Applicants appreciate the careful and thoughtful review of this application by the Examiner.

A. Objection to Abstract has been Remedied

The Examiner objected to the abstract on grounds that the abstract must include more informative structural details as to the point of novelty. Applicants herewith submit a revised abstract for incorporation in the present application. Accordingly, this ground of rejection is believed to have been remedied.